



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of September 27, 2017

Follow Up to Last Council Meeting

Sidewalk Issue on Carroll

Councilmember Qureshi conveyed a report from a resident that the sidewalk in the vicinity of 7501 Carroll (near the intersection of Lincoln and Carroll) was crumbling, possibly due to running water. Public Works staff visited the site and confirmed that the sidewalk was indeed damaged, possibly from water emanating from a nearby meter, and that it appears to have been an issue in the past that had been patched up by one of the utility companies. Staff has reported the issue to the utility company and expects to see some follow up in the next week or two. If corrective action is delayed, we will lay some asphalt to remedy a related tripping hazard near the damaged sidewalk.

No-Parking Street Markings

Councilmember Kovar asked for a report back to Council on the test markings Public Works has installed identifying where people may park and not park. Test markings were done on Sherman, Hancock and Fifth Avenues. We have received little comment on them, but staff feels they are working well. Recommendations to move forward on this may come forward to Council when discussing parking in several months.

Information to Share

Paramedic at Takoma Park Fire Station: Coming April 2018

The County Executive's Office recently shared information about a grant award where some of the award funds would be used to fund a paramedic at Fire Stations 20 (Cedar Lane Bethesda) and 25 (Aspen Hill). We understand that some took this news to mean that funds for a paramedic were going to be directed away from Takoma Park. I wanted to assure residents that this is not the case, and that a paramedic will be added to the daily staffing of the Takoma Park Fire Station in April 2018 in accordance with the FY18 operating budget.

Weekend Thefts from Autos

This past weekend there were five thefts from autos and one attempted theft at various locations in the City, some of which may be related. Thefts from autos have occurred at locations to include the Maple Avenue corridor, Carroll Avenue near the Washington, D.C. border, and near Flower and Houston Avenues. Takoma Park Police are following up on several investigative leads in an effort to catch those responsible.

The Takoma Park Police Department has focused recently on preventing theft from autos, and launched a theft from auto summer initiative this past summer in which police officers observed valuable items left in vehicles, and letters were sent to the vehicle owners as a reminder not to leave valuables unattended in their vehicles. To further their efforts, the police department is asking for the community's assistance in removing and securing valuables from vehicles and, as always, reporting any suspicious activity. The biggest help a community can give its police force is information, so please help us encourage residents

to call 301-270-1100 and report if they see something out of the ordinary, such as a suspicious person or vehicle.

Apply for the Takoma Park Youth Council!

Applications are now being accepted for the Takoma Park Youth Council. Applications can be completed and submitted online or paper copies may be submitted to the City Clerk. As a reminder, the Youth Council is open to Takoma Park youth in grades 7 to 12. After reviewing the applications, the City Council will appoint nine members to serve one-year terms. Terms will begin in November. The [Youth Council Charter and application](https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/takoma-park-youth-council/) are on the City website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/takoma-park-youth-council/>).

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Set Aside for the State of Maryland Takoma Park Award - \$160,000

Maryland follows a two-stage project selection process. In the first stage, large Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) like the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) select projects using sub-allocated funds. The TPB was sub-allocated \$1,663,312 for decision-making at the MPO level. The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Program Application included both infrastructure (sidewalk and intersection improvements) and non-infrastructure (education and site evaluation) projects totaling \$592,602.88. *Takoma Park was awarded \$160,000 for infrastructure only.*

In the second stage of project selection, SHA selects projects using statewide funding; the applications from the TPB's member jurisdictions (including the Takoma Park Application) are eligible for the funding. For FY 2018, Maryland has more than \$10 million available in statewide funding. Currently in Maryland, TAP funding can be requested for up to 80% of a project's total estimated cost. Since TAP only reimburses for paid costs up to these limits, a project applicant should ensure other sources of non-federal transportation funding is available for a minimum of 20% of the project costs. SHA award announcements are expected later this fall.

Safe Routes to School Pop Up

Safe Routes to School is planning a Pop Up event that aims to address the unsafe conditions that exist for Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES) students during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times in the Community Center parking lot. Look for a low-cost, temporary, public engagement project for two weeks, in conjunction with Walk to School Day, October 4. The wooden staircase between TPES and the Community Center parking lot will be CLOSED to traffic from Monday, October 2 through Friday, October 13. Students and parents will be asked to use an alternate route and to take extra care while traversing the parking lot.

The event is intended to educate parents and students about the risk of exiting the wooden staircase into the middle of the Community Center parking lot and to explore safer choices; to discourage the use of the parking lot as a remote pick up and drop off point; and to evaluate new pedestrian traffic patterns.

Walk to School Day

On Wednesday, October 4, school staff, parents and students are invited to participate in Walk to School Day. Please check with the school administration or PTA to find out how each school plans to celebrate this year. Families are encouraged to walk on October 4 and

every day! Not only is walking to school fun, it is good exercise. Leaving the car at home produces less stress, less congestion around the schools and reduced emissions.

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale – Accepting Vendor Applications

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting applications from area artists, makers and crafters interested in participating in the annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, December 9. This is a juried sale and only original, hand-made work is sold.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the sale, please submit your completed [2017 Holiday Art Sale - Vendor Application Form](https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/HolidayArtSaleApplication2017) (<https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/HolidayArtSaleApplication2017>) before the Sunday, October 29, 2017 deadline. Selections will be announced on or about Friday, November 3, 2017.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Police Chief, Licensing Specialist, Economic Development Specialist (limited-term position), Dispatcher, Parking Enforcement Officer, Crossing Guard, Sanitation Driver, Sanitation Tech, Right-of-Way Tech, and various Recreation Specialists, Program Leaders, and Program Assistants.

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